

**ABSTRACT**

A data collection device (10) reads a machine readable data storage medium (38) comprising data encoded in a machine readable format. The data collection device (10) comprising a code reading system (21), a processor (20), and a communication module (26). The code reading system detects the data encoded in the machine readable data storage medium (38) and generates digital data representative thereof. The processor (20) operates an embedded decoder system (76). The embedded decoder system (76) comprises a decoder module (72) and an interpreter module (84). The decoder module (76) receives the digital data and generates decoded data (134). The interpreter module (84) receives the decoded data (134) and manipulating the decoded data (134) in accordance with the plurality of data manipulation commands defined in a rules file (85) to generate formatted data (136). The communication module (26) transfers the formatted data to a remote system.